

## ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR ESTIMATING  
A SIR OF A PILOT CHANNEL IN A MC-CDMA SYSTEM

A MC-CDMA handset has a receiver (30) that estimates SIR based on a spread factor of a pilot channel. More particularly, a spread spectrum signal including a pilot channel and multiple data channels is received. The pilot channel is despread using a spread factor (SF). The SIR for the despread pilot channel is calculated and stored in a memory (34). The SF is then incremented and used to despread the pilot channel again, and this process is repeated for all of SF. The stored SIRs are compared to a threshold value in ascending order of the SFs. The first SIR value to fall below the threshold value is used as the estimated SIR result.